

## **Board of Health Report – November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator, Division Manager

*Lainnie Emond, LMHC*

### ***Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:***

- Lainnie continues to work with the Co-Chairs of the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force. The last meeting of the calendar year was October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The 2021 meetings calendar will be released by the end of the year.
- Lainnie continues to lead the Data Subcommittee of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Meetings are being held virtually. In October, the Subcommittee completed an "Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA" report that focuses on the impact of COVID-19 on OUD/SUD in Lowell.

### ***Lowell CO-OP and Smart Policing Initiative (SPI) Grant Efforts:***

- Lainnie continues to be involved in administrative planning for the Lowell CO-OP, including co-facilitating Lowell CO-OP Supervisors Meetings and working with team and grant partners to ensure effectiveness of the team. All meeting are being held virtually at this time.
- The Tewksbury Police Department, through the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant, donated two tablets and cases to the Lowell CO-OP to use to outreach to clients should COVID-19 once again impact the Lowell CO-OP's ability to engage with clients. Lainnie facilitated the donation, which was approved by the City Council on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:***

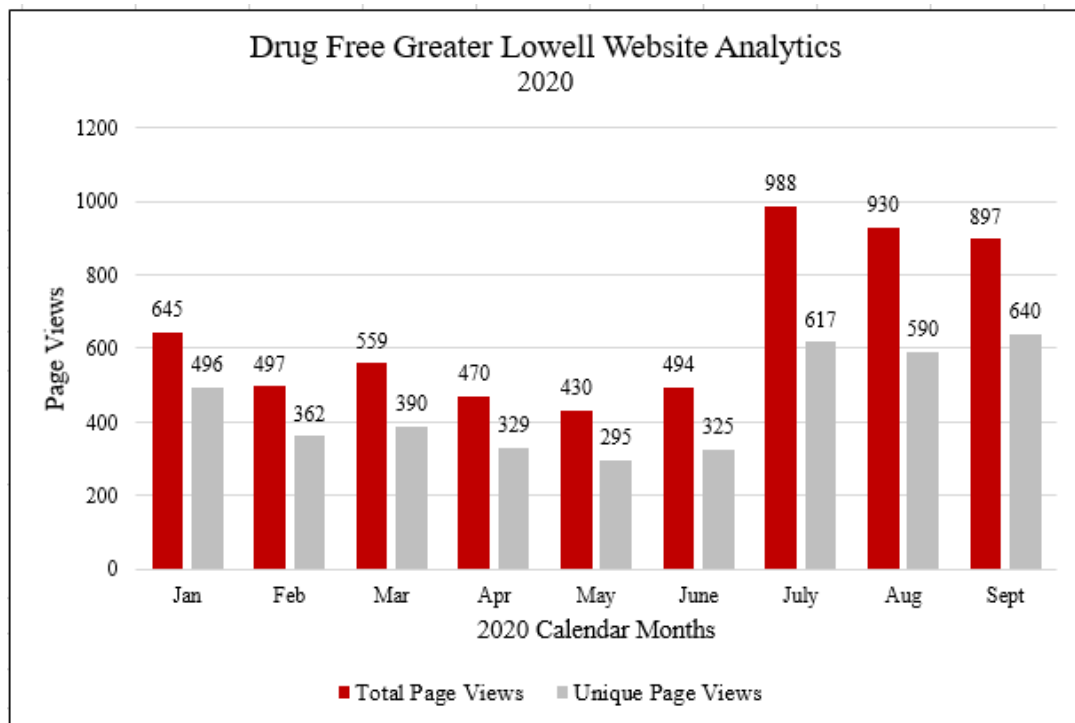
- Lainnie continues to manage daily activities of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division.
- Lainnie continues to be the point person for [www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org](http://www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org) (see MOAPC report). Lainnie has been updating current and writing new content.
- Lainnie continues to be part of the Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium planning committee. The symposium will be held virtually on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 9-1pm. See attached flyer for more information.
- The research manuscript entitled "**Examination of Prior Emergency Medical Service Interactions with Opioid Overdose Decedents: Time to event and spatial analyses in Lowell, Massachusetts, 2016**" that Lainnie co-authored with staff from Tufts University and Trinity EMS was presented by the two lead authors at the American Public Health Associate Annual Meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Please note that the 2015 Partnerships For Success grant ended on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The last coalition meeting was held on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Lainnie and the other Division staff will continue to provide education to the community regarding medication safety and disposal.

## Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)

*\*\* Lainnie Emond is overseeing the MOAPC Coalition and grant efforts in the interim\*\**

### **Drug Free Greater Lowell Website**

- [www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org](http://www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org) is being maintained via the MOAPC grant. The COVID-19 resource page related to mental health, substance abuse treatment and recovery, and youth prevention is being updated regularly.
- The Prevention Professionals of Northern Middlesex have started a virtual learning library on the Drug Free Greater Lowell website that houses prevention and harm reduction videos: <https://drugfreegreaterlowell.org/virtual-learning/>. Videos can be shared with community members, youth serving organizations, parents, and youth. As of now, video topics include vaping prevention, internet safety, Narcan training, physiology of addiction, and opioids in dental health. Videos and podcasts will be added over time.



### **Other Updates**

- The Prevention Professionals of Northern Middlesex held a virtual vigil on October 15<sup>th</sup> in honor of nation Recovery (September) and Prevention (October) months. Lainnie attended to represent Lowell. The vigil was live streamed on local cable access TV and on Facebook live; the recording of the vigil on Wilmington Community TV's Facebook currently has "1.1k views".
- Some prevention staff involved in the Prevention Professionals of Northern Middlesex continue to be redirected within their agency to focus on COVID-19 related responsibilities. The coalition is working to provide substance misuse prevention services that all communities can access regardless of current involvement in the planning and implementation of said services.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP) – **Overview**  
*Maricia Verma, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor*

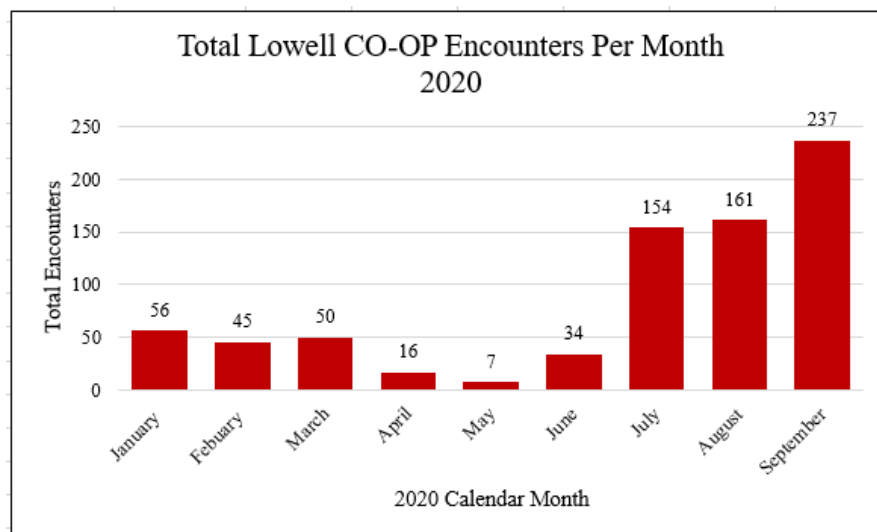
**Lowell CO-OP Data**

--	Sep 2019	Sep 2020	2019 Total	2020 Total
<b>Total Encounters</b>	74	237	667	760
<b>Unique Encounters</b>	53	94	378	385
<b>Initial Interaction</b>	12	30	100	118
<b>OD Follow-Up</b>	29	25	116	105
<b>Section 35</b>	2	1	20	29
<b>Clinical Clients</b>	2	28	40	108
<b>Disseminate Narcan</b>	25	22	141	143
<b>SUD Treatment</b>	22	25	158	138
<b>Medical Treatment</b>	4	35	33	105
<b>Other Services</b>	11	33	47	77
<b>Misc. Outreach</b>	71	158	1,581	445

*\*On 6/22/2020 remote work restrictions eased allowing for the reevaluation data with the paper records, in addition to the electron health records. This reanalysis is reflected in the table above.*

**Insight into Data**

Since Lowell CO-OP team members returned to in-person client *follow-up* and *outreach* in late June to early July 2020, the number of individual Lowell CO-OP encounters documented per month has more than tripled compared to the months at the beginning of the 2020 calendar year. Although the reported nonfatal overdose rate has remained relatively stable over the course of the COVID-19 state of emergency (increasing just slightly), clients and collateral contacts alike have reported an increase in self-reported client relapse and an overall increase in the substance using population in general. This increase in relapse rates of opioids is most likely a reflection of the increase in the social and economic stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP) – Clinical Services

*Joseph Aniello, Clinical Recovery Specialist*

\*\*Please note that Clinical Staff for the Lowell CO-OP are Joseph Aniello, Maricia Verma (Lowell CO-OP Supervisor), and Gianna Sandelli (Assistant Director of Outreach, Lowell House Addiction Treatment and Recover). \*\*

### Lowell CO-OP Clinical Services Data 2020

--	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Clinical Sessions</b>	--	--	18	16	7	10	65	100	147	--	--	--	<b>363</b>
<b>Clinical Clients</b>	--	--	7	4	3	4	16	23	28	--	--	--	<b>85</b>
<b>Initial Interaction</b>	--	--	1	0	0	0	4	6	7	--	--	--	<b>18</b>
<b>Medical Treatment</b>	--	--	4	1	0	0	6	8	44	--	--	--	<b>63</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	--	--	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	<b>2</b>
<b>Housing</b>	--	--	5	0	0	0	7	3	27	--	--	--	<b>42</b>
<b>Financial</b>	--	--	5	2	1	1	2	3	55	--	--	--	<b>69</b>
<b>DCF</b>	--	--	4	4	4	1	10	1	27	--	--	--	<b>51</b>
<b>Other</b>	--	--	18	0	0	5	2	8	23	--	--	--	<b>56</b>

<b>Definitions of Data Categories</b>	
Clinical Sessions	Total number of clients that have engaged in clinical case management with Lowell CO-OP Clinical Staff. Includes duplicates of clients.
Clinical Clients	Total number of unduplicated clinical clients that were engaged by Clinical Staff.
Initial Interaction	Total number of clients that the Clinical Staff began clinical case management services during the month.
Transportation	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff case management for clinical clients with regard to transportation services.
Housing	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff performed case management with clinical clients in regard to housing services.
Financial	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff performed case management with clinical client in regard to financial services.
DCF	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff performed case management with clinical clients in regard to services related to the DCF.
Other	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff performed case management with clinical clients for any other service.
Case Management	The process of assessment, planning, facilitation, care coordination, and advocacy for clinical clients' ongoing psychosocial needs for the promotion of long term substance use recovery.

### Insight into Data

Lowell CO-OP's engagement in clinical services have increased since the clinical staffs' return to in-person client *follow-up* and *outreach* in late June to early July 2020. Joe reported that there is an increase in the overall population using opioid in Lowell, and therefore more individuals are seeking help. The Lowell CO-OP clinical client population has been asking for help accessing and navigating virtual services, such as telehealth and virtual court. In addition, clients have requested help finding virtual recovery meetings, learning about pandemic unemployment, and making contact with collateral providers.

Syringe Collection Program  
*Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator*

**Syringe Collection Activity 2020**

Total Number of...	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct 1-19	Nov	Dec	Total
Discarded pick-up requests	20	24	21	14	13	20	33	45	18	13	--	--	201
Incoming calls for pick-up requests	18	9	11	9	8	16	21	21	15	12	--	--	122
Syringes picked-up while responding to <b>all</b> discarded pick-up requests	375	135	547	124	50	91	205	413	257	151	--	--	2,330
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	0
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	1,125	774	727	882	583	1,190	1,824	1,946	1,218	999	--	--	11,268
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	50	44	40	51	27.5	66	67	62.5	43	52	--	--	503

**Insight into Data**

The below chart is a quarterly comparison of the total number of syringes removed from the community by the Syringe Collection Program. Syringe collection numbers increased this past quarter compared to previous quarters. Andres noted that warmer weather months draw more people outside in general; Andres reported that he saw more people outside in the community this summer as compared to last summer. Because of this, Andres focused more time proactively sweeping high utilized areas.

